

Business and Personal.

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Notes & Queries

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Names and Address must accompany all letters or no attention will be paid thereto. This is for our information and not for publication. References to former articles or answers should give date of paper and page or number of question. Inquiries not answered in reasonable time should be repeated; correspondents will bear in mind that some answers require not a little research, and though we endeavor to reply to all either by letter or in this department, each must take his turn. Buyers wishing to purchase any article not advertised in our columns will be furnished with addresses of houses manufacturing or carrying the same. Special Written Information on matters of personal rather than general interest cannot be expected without remuneration. Scientific American Supplements referred to may be had at the office. Price 10 cents each. Books referred to promptly supplied on receipt of price. Minerals sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(7818) E. A. writes: I have an experimental science book on electricity bought from you and would like to know if you could give me a few explanations about caustic potash batteries, page 408, Fig. 404, illustrated. I would like to know if possible the proportion for making this battery, how much zinc, oxide of copper and potash solution. Is it good for sparking purpose? A. The zinc may be of any size you find convenient. The potash solution is to be saturated, that is, dissolve all the caustic potash in the water which you can, at ordinary temperature. The copper oxide may be put on the bottom of the cell to the depth of an inch or so. Proportions are not important, else they would have been given in the book. You would better buy the Edison-Lalande cell, which is an improved form of this cell. It is widely used for sparking purposes.

(7819) C. L. says: I want to get a preparation of gums or some sticky material to use in this manner in tableting sheets of paper, spread thinly on cloth and dried; when wanted, to be wet with water in sponge and applied to the end of tablet, where it will hold every sheet, yet allow them to be torn off and will remain flexible. A. The composition is said to be prepared as follows: Glue, 4 lb.; glycerine, 2 lb.; linseed oil, 1/2 lb.; sugar, 1/2 lb.; aniline dyes, q. s. to color. The glue is softened by soaking it in a little cold water, then dissolved together with the sugar in the glycerine, by aid of heat over a water bath. To this the dyes are added, after which the oil is well stirred in. It is used hot. Another composition of a somewhat similar nature is prepared as follows: Glue, 1 lb.; glycerine, 4 oz.; glucose sirup, about 2 tablespoonfuls; tannin, one-tenth oz. Give the compositions an hour or more in which to dry or set before cutting or handling the pads.

TO INVENTORS.

An experience of fifty years, and the preparation of more than one hundred thousand applications for patents at home and abroad, enable us to understand the laws and practice on both continents, and to possess unequalled facilities for procuring patents everywhere. A synopsis of the patent laws of the United States and all foreign countries may be had on application, and persons contemplating the securing of patents, either at home or abroad, are invited to write to this office for prices, which are low, in accordance with the times and our extensive facilities for conducting the business. Address MUNN & CO., office SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, 361 Broadway, New York.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Issued for the Week Ending

JANUARY 23, 1900,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

Table listing inventions with patent numbers and names of inventors. Includes items like 'Adjustable bracket, T. Smith', 'Adjustable cutter, A. A. Glaser', 'Advertising device, car. W. Keys', etc.

Advertisements.

ORDINARY RATES.

Inside Page, each insertion, - 75 cents a line. Back Page, each insertion, - \$1.00 a line. For some classes of Advertisements, Special and Higher rates are required. The above are charges per agate line—about eight words per line. This notice shows the width of the line and is set in agate type. Engravings may be had advertised at the same rate per agate line, by measurement, as the letter press. Advertisements must be received at Publication Office as early as Thursday morning to appear in the following week's issue.

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Table listing various mechanical parts and machinery with prices. Includes items like 'Bath cabinet, folding vapor, F. B. Losee', 'Bearing, crank hanger, H. Beeston', 'Bearing, roller, B. F. Barnes', etc.

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Table showing rates by mail for Scientific American (weekly), Scientific American Supplement (weekly), Export Edition of the Scientific American (monthly), Building Edition of the Scientific American (monthly), and combined rates for the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

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